

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-22 are allowable. The Applicant also thanks the Examiner for courtesies extended during the Examiner Interview held on July 6, 2005, and for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-31 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 1, 10, 18, and 23 are independent. The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, on claims 1, 10, 18, and 23.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 23 has been amended to include the following clarifications as discussed during the Examiner Interview: (i) performing computerized image processing on the captured image of a portion of a parking area to determine available parking spaces within the image, and (ii) indexing a map database, which contains information on the portion of the parking area, to determine locations of the available parking spaces in the captured image. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these amendments may be found, for example, on page 4, lines 12-17 and page 5, lines 7-12.

Dependent claim 24 has been amended to be consistent with the amendments made to independent claim 23. Dependent claim 29 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 23-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Cahill, et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0099574, in view of Yoo, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,107,942. Claims 27-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Cahill, et al. in view of Yoo, et al. and further in view of Dutta, et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0161520.

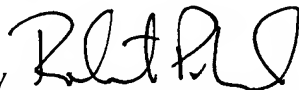
Independent claim 23 has been amended to include subject matter consistent with the allowable subject matter in independent claims 1, 10, and 18. Therefore, amended independent claim 23 is patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as those allowed claims. Accordingly, dependent claims 24-31 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes this reply fully responds to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered or any credits to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/452002).

Dated: August 9, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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